

Amendments to the Claims:

1       1. (currently amended) A method for policy-enabled, contract-based management of a  
2       network operational support system that comprises a set of programs designed to  
3       support various network management functions, comprising the steps of:  
4       in response to a network system state change, receiving one or more conditions that  
5       represent the current state of the network system;  
6       determining whether native policies within the operational support system address the  
7       one or more conditions;  
8       in response to determining that the native policies do not address the one or more  
9       conditions,  
10      comparing the one or more conditions to one or more conditions addressed by  
11      one or more policy views of respective one or more policy  
12      management systems that are logically separate from the operational  
13      support system;  
14      based on comparing, determining at least one particular policy management  
15      system that addresses the one or more conditions that represent the  
16      current state of the network system;  
17      requesting a policy view from ~~one or more~~ the at least one particular policy  
18      ~~management system[[s]]~~ that are logically separate from the  
19      ~~operational support system~~, wherein the policy view comprises a set of  
20      required policies that address one or more of the conditions that  
21      represent the current state of the network system;

22 receiving one or more executable policies, from the at least one particular policy  
23 management system, capable of supporting the required policies of the  
24 requested policy view, wherein selection of the one or more executable  
25 policies is based on a contract that defines one or more criteria that the  
26 selected executable policies must satisfy; and  
27 implementing the requested policy view by executing the selected executable policies.

- 1       2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the operational support system comprises a
- 2       set of native policies indigenous to the operational support system, and further
- 3       comprising the step of identifying a behavioral exception when none of the native
- 4       policies is capable of supporting the requested policy view.
  
- 1       3. (original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the requesting step is carried out only in
- 2       response to a behavioral exception in the operational support system.
  
- 1       4. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the requesting step further comprises the
- 2       step of inventorying the available policy views of the policy management system.
  
- 1       5. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the policy management system comprises
- 2       an external policy engine, further comprising the step of causing the policy view to
- 3       initiate the contract for the selection and importation of the executable policies from
- 4       the external policy engine.
  
- 1       6. (original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the contract comprises one or more pre-
- 2       conditions, one or more post-conditions, one or more environmental requirements and
- 3       one or more policy dependency rules.

- 1       7. (original) The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of causing the contract  
2                  to apply the environmental requirements to the selected executable policies to enable  
3                  the selected executable policies to run on the operational support system.
- 1       8. (original) The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step of causing the contract  
2                  to apply the policy dependency rules to two or more of the selected executable  
3                  policies when the behaviors of the two or more selected executable policies are in  
4                  conflict with one another.
- 1       9. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the policy management system comprises a  
2                  policy export engine, and the receiving step further comprises the step of importing  
3                  the selected executable policies from the policy export engine.
- 1      10. (currently amended) A method for policy-enabled, contract-based management of an  
2                  operational support system that comprises a set of programs designed to support  
3                  various network management functions, the method implemented by a policy kernel  
4                  in the operational support system that is communicatively coupled to one or more  
5                  policy management systems, comprising the steps of:  
6                  in response to a network system state change, receiving one or more conditions that  
7                  represent the current state of the network system;  
8                  determining whether native policies within the operational support system address the  
9                  one or more conditions;  
10                 in response to determining that the native policies do not address the one or more  
11                 conditions,

12           comparing the one or more conditions to one or more conditions addressed by  
13           one or more policy views of respective one or more policy  
14           management systems that are logically separate from the operational  
15           support system;

16           based on comparing, determining at least one particular policy management  
17           system that addresses the one or more conditions that represent the  
18           current state of the network system;

19           requesting a policy view from ~~one or more~~ the at least one particular management  
20           system[[s]], wherein the policy view comprises a set of required policies that  
21           address one or more of the conditions that represent the current state of the  
22           network system;

23           receiving one or more executable policies, from the at least one particular policy  
24           management system, capable of supporting the required policies of the requested  
25           policy view, wherein selection of the one or more executable policies is based  
26           on a contract that defines one or more criteria that the selected executable  
27           policies must satisfy; and

28           implementing the requested policy view by executing the selected executable policies.

- 1       11. (original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the policy kernel comprises a set of native  
2           policies indigenous to the policy kernel, and further comprising the step of identifying  
3           a behavioral exception when none of the native policies is capable of supporting the  
4           requested policy view.



- 1        19. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the contract comprises one or more pre-
- 2              conditions, one or more post-conditions, one or more environmental requirements and
- 3              one or more policy dependency rules.
- 1        20. (original) The method of Claim 19 further comprising the step of causing the contract
- 2              to apply the environmental requirements to the selected executable policies to enable
- 3              the selected executable policies to run on the policy kernel.
- 1        21. (original) The method of Claim 19 further comprising the step of causing the contract
- 2              to apply the policy dependency rules to two or more of the selected executable
- 3              policies when the behaviors of the two or more selected executable policies are in
- 4              conflict with one another.
- 1        22. (original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the policy management system comprises
- 2              a policy export engine, and the receiving step further comprises the step of importing
- 3              the selected executable policies from the policy export engine.
- 1        23. (currently amended) A method for policy-enabled, contract-based management of an
- 2              operational support system that comprises a set of programs designed to support
- 3              various network management functions, the method implemented by a policy kernel,
- 4              wherein the policy kernel comprises one or more policy access points and each policy
- 5              access point is associated with a particular policy management system, the method
- 6              comprising the steps of:
- 7              inventorying the policy access points of the policy kernel;

8 inventorying one or more policy views from one or more of the policy management  
9 systems, wherein the policy view comprises a set of required policies that address  
10 one or more conditions that represent the state of a network system;  
11 requesting one of the policy views from the inventory of policy views based on which  
12 policy view comprises one or more policies that address the current state of the  
13 network system being supported by the operational support system;  
14 enabling the policy access point corresponding to the associated policy management  
15 system capable of supporting the requested policy view;  
16 causing a contract of the requested policy view to be initiated for the selection of  
17 executable policies from an external policy engine of the policy management  
18 system;  
19 causing the contract to apply environmental requirements to the selected executable  
20 policies to enable the selected executable policies to ~~run~~ execute on the policy  
21 kernel;  
22 causing the contract to apply dependency rules to two or more of the selected  
23 executable policies when the behaviors of the two or more selected executable  
24 policies are in conflict with one another;  
25 importing the selected executable policies from a policy export engine of the policy  
26 management system; and  
27 implementing the requested policy view by executing the selected executable policies.

- 1 24. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of  
2 instructions for policy-enabled, contract-based management of a network operational  
3 support system that comprises a set of programs designed to support various network

4        management functions, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors,  
5        cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:  
6        in response to a network system state change, receiving one or more conditions that  
7                represent the current state of the network system;  
8        determining whether native policies within the operational support system address the  
9                one or more conditions;  
10      in response to determining that the native policies do not address the one or more  
11                conditions,  
12      comparing the one or more conditions to one or more conditions addressed by  
13                one or more policy views of respective one or more policy  
14                management systems that are logically separate from the operational  
15                support system;  
16      based on comparing, determining at least one particular policy management  
17                system that addresses the one or more conditions that represent the  
18                current state of the network system;  
19      requesting a policy view from ~~one or more~~ the at least one particular policy  
20                ~~management system[[s]]~~ that are logically separate from the  
21                ~~operational support system~~, wherein the policy view comprises a set of  
22                required policies that address one or more of the conditions that  
23                represent the current state of the network system;  
24      receiving one or more executable policies, from the at least one particular policy  
25                management system, capable of supporting the required policies of the  
26                requested policy view, wherein selection of the one or more executable

27           policies is based on a contract that defines one or more criteria that the  
28           selected executable policies must satisfy; and  
29           implementing the requested policy view by executing the selected executable policies.

1       25. (currently amended) A system for policy-enabled, contract-based management of  
2           operational support systems that comprise a set of programs designed to support  
3           various network management functions, comprising:  
4           means for receiving, in response to a network system state change, one or more  
5           conditions that represent the current state of the network system;  
6           means for determining whether native policies within the operational support system  
7           address the one or more conditions;  
8           means for comparing the one or more conditions to one or more conditions addressed  
9           by one or more policy views of respective one or more policy management  
10           systems that are logically separate from the operational support system;  
11           means for determining at least one particular policy management system that  
12           addresses the one or more conditions that represent the current state of the  
13           network system;  
14           means for requesting a policy view from ~~one or more~~ the at least one particular policy  
15           management system[[s]] ~~that are logically separate from the operational~~  
16           support system, wherein the policy view comprises a set of required policies  
17           that address one or more of the conditions that represent the current state of  
18           the network system;  
19           means for receiving one or more executable policies, from the at least one particular  
20           policy management system, capable of supporting the required policies of the

21           requested policy view, wherein selection of the one or more executable  
22           policies is based on a contract that defines one or more criteria that the  
23           selected executable policies must satisfy; and  
24           means for implementing the requested policy view by executing the selected  
25           executable policies.

1       26. (currently amended) A system for policy-enabled, contract-based management of  
2           operational support systems that comprise a set of programs designed to support  
3           various network management functions, comprising:  
4           a policy kernel for executing policies of a policy view on the operational support  
5           system; and  
6           one or more policy access points that are communicatively coupled to one or more  
7           policy management systems, the policy management system including one or  
8           more executable policies and one or more policy views, the policy views  
9           containing a set of required policies and a contract that defines one or more  
10          criteria that the executable policies must satisfy.